

Spelling—Unit 1

Proofreading Practice

DIRECTIONS: Proofread the following passage, looking for 14 misspelled words. Cross out each misspelled word, and write it correctly in the space above.

The arrival of Christopher Columbus in the West Indies in 1492 led to a period of Spanish conquest in the Americas. The motivation of the Spanish explorers was the acquisition of gold and other treasures. Exploration intensified as the Spanish discovered the riches of the Inca empire in South America, which included many exquisite treasures.

Once they had pacified the peoples of South America, the Spanish began moving north. However, they were often disappointed in their quest for riches. The Native Americans they identified in what is now Texas and New Mexico, for example, showed no indications of great wealth.

Still, claims made by Spanish explorers led to Spain's early domination of the race for territory in North America. Unfortunately, Native Americans living in Spanish colonies died in great numbers. Their deaths were caused by mistreatment and by European diseases such as smallpox, from which they had no immunities. Some tribes actually disappeared. In one estimate, the Native American population in Spanish territories declined from 50 million in the 1500s to only 4 million in the 1600s.

Another factor in spreading the Spanish empire was the coming of Spanish missionaries, who forced Indians to convert to Christianity. Their efforts led to the creation of educational and religious missions in Florida, Mexico, and California. These missions solidified Spain's claims to vast areas of North America, claims which they held until the 1800s.